

REMARKSClaim Status

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application, and stand rejected. Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1-5 and 6-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. With respect to Claim 2, the Office Action notes the term “comprising at least two lobes” is unclear with respect to its referent. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify that the recited at least two lobes are simply a recitation of two or more, rather than one or more, of the non-adhesive lobes recited in Claim 1.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 have been amended to clarify the antecedent basis of “said lobes” in each instance in which such term is recited. All of the claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph may be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by La Gro (U.S. 5,593,397). Claims 1-4, 7 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooney et al. (U.S. 4,198,979). Claims 1-4, 7 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Willingham (U.S. 5,411,495).

Amended Claim 1 is not anticipated by any of the cited references. For example, none of the cited references disclose the claimed flexible bag structure having an inner lining with an absorbent material disposed on the inner lining in addition to the remainder of the claimed structure. The specification at pages 9-10 describes this embodiment as being of interest to applicants. Additionally, the La Gro reference is not a urine management device, but a fecal collector. The Cooney et al. device is not flexible, but rigid. The Willingham device does not have the claimed flexible bag structure and is also missing the absorbent material as described above. For at least these reasons, none of the cited references anticipate Amended Claim 1. Claims 2-5 and 7-9 depend from Amended Claim 1. These claims are not anticipated by any of the cited references for at least the reasons given above with respect to Amended Claim 1. Therefore, all of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 may be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over La Gro in view of Allen, Jr. et al.. Even assuming proper motivation to combine these references, the combination does not teach or suggest each and every feature of Claim 6 which depends from Amended Claim 1. For example, the features of Amended Claim 1 discussed above are not present in the combination of the La Gro and Allen, Jr. patents. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

SUMMARY

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

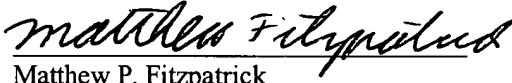
All of the relevant rejections in the Office Action have been discussed. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

In light of the discussions contained herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and their withdrawal, and that all of the claims be allowed.

Issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

The claims indicated as "Amended" above, have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A Urine management device [(10)] comprising a flexible bag having an inner lining[(11)] , said bag [(11)] having an aperture [(21)] and a flange [(12)] surrounding said aperture [(21)], said flange [(12)] having a wearer facing portion [(23)] and a garment facing portion[(22)], wherein said wearer facing portion [(23)] comprises a layer of adhesive[(20)] for releasable attachment to the uro-genital area of a wearer, said device [(10)] being characterised in that said flange [(12)] is provided with at least one non-adhesive lobe, said flexible bag containing absorbent material disposed on said inner lining.
2. (Amended) A Urine management device [(10)] according to Claim 1 , comprising at least two of said non-adhesive lobes [(13)].
3. (Amended) A Urine management device [(10)] according to Claim 1 comprising one lobe[(13)] positioned at the upward end of said flange [(12)].
4. (Amended) A Urine management device [(10)] according to Claim 1, wherein said device[(10)] has a longitudinal axis of symmetry and wherein said at least one non-adhesive lobe is [lobes (13) are] located about said axis.
5. (Amended) A Urine management device [(10)] according to Claim 1, wherein said device [(10)] further comprises a release means, said release means covering said adhesive [(20)] and said at least one non-adhesive lobe[s (13)].
6. (Amended) A Urine management device [(10)] according to Claim 1, wherein said device [(10)] further comprises a release means characterised in that said release means extends beyond the flange [(12)].
7. (Amended) A method for a caretaker or a wearer for placing a urine management device[(10)] according to Claim [1] 2 in the uro-genital area of a wearer, said method comprises the steps of:
 - placing said device [(10)] in the perineal area of the wearer;
 - letting said adhesive [(20)] on said flange [(12)] attach to the uro-genital-area of the wearer by holding said device [(10)] using said non-adhesive lobes [(13)];
 - releasing the grasp of [both of] said non-adhesive lobes [(13)].

8. (Amended) The method of Claim [8] 7, wherein said urine management device [(10)] further comprises a release means covering said adhesive [(20)], said method comprises a further step of removing the releasing means covering said adhesive [(20)] with one hand while holding the urine management device[(10)] using the other hand, after grasping said non-adhesive lobes [(13)].
9. A method for a caretaker or a wearer for the removal of a urine management device [(10)] according to Claim [1]2, from the uro-genital area of the wearer, said method comprises the steps of:
- grasping with one or both hands one or more of said non-adhesive lobes [(13)] on said flange[(12)];
 - exercising forces directed substantially away from the wearer by said non-adhesive lobes[(13)];
 - holding the detached device [(10)] using said non-adhesive lobes [(13)] on said flange [(12)];
 - releasing the grasp of said non-adhesive lobes [(13)] used for holding said detached device.